



# CITY OF BETHEL

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November 21, 2005

Commissioner Mike Barton  
State of Alaska  
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
3132 Channel Drive  
Juneau, AK 99801-7898

Dear Mr. Barton:

The community of Bethel has been anxiously awaiting the completion of the Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway rehabilitation and related construction of a separated pathway ever since it appeared in the 2004-2006 Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan. This highway is the lifeblood of Bethel, running from the airport to the center of town, and then to the small boat harbor. Nearly everyone who has a vehicle uses the Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway. The ongoing concern for Bethel residents is the danger associated with the highway's large dips, bumps, potholes, cracks, and loose rocks that make it extremely unsafe for automobile travel and even more hazardous for pedestrians and bicyclists who must share the road with motorists.

The City of Bethel heard recently that the project might be delayed until 2007. It is our understanding that the proposed delay stems from the need for DOT&PF to secure ten right of way acquisitions as part of the original rehabilitation project plan. I trust my fellow council members and City staff have been helpful to you in your efforts to complete this project. We will continue to respond to requests for information and documents, facilitate meetings as needed, and give feedback on plans, proposals, and problems. We remain at your beck and call to help get this project done in 2006. We hope this letter and accompanying City Council resolution along with the other resolutions enclosed, will help convince you of the importance of completing this project during summer 2006.

Sincerely,

R. Thor Williams  
Mayor

RECEIVED

DOT & PF Commissioner

Introduced by: Wally Baird,  
City Manager  
Date: November 21, 2005  
Action: Passed  
Vote: Unanimous

## *CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA*

### **Resolution #05-39**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA,  
ENCOURAGING COMMISSIONER OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES  
TO MAINTAIN A SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION OF IMPROVEMENTS  
TO THE CHIEF EDDIE HOFFMAN HIGHWAY CORRIDOR IN 2006**

- WHEREAS,** The City of Bethel is genuinely appreciative of the efforts which the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has made in maintaining and improving this and other facilities operated by the Department within Bethel;
- WHEREAS,** The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has within and a part of an overall transportation plan to repair and otherwise reconstruct the Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway in Bethel;
- WHEREAS,** Existing conditions at various locations on this highway have deteriorated to the extent that users of the road are paying premium prices for automobile repairs and maintenance;
- WHEREAS,** The conditions referred to above have caused an inordinate amount of time and money for the maintenance of the roadway and have caused undue stress and consternation for the local Department of Transportation and Public Facilities employees notwithstanding that several places on this roadway remain in extremely poor condition and significantly below Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Standards;
- WHEREAS,** Notwithstanding the efforts by Department employees, several places on this roadway remain in extremely poor condition and significantly below Alaska Department of Transportation standards;



Introduced by: Wally Baird,  
City Manager  
Date: November 21, 2005  
Action: Passed  
Vote: Unanimous

**WHEREAS,** The proposed 2006-2008 Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) draft shows the funding for this project to be delayed another two years in addition to the delays which have already occurred. City Council is opposed to this delay and requests that the project be completed as shown in the 2004-2006 STIP;

**WHEREAS,** the removal of the asphalt on a portion of the highway was completed this past summer in anticipation of improvements occurring during the 2006 construction season, and it is necessary to protect the health and safety of the residents and businesses adjacent to the portion of the highway by completing the improvements and minimizing the hazards;

**WHEREAS,** Residents and visitors to the City of Bethel have been more than reasonably patient considering the current condition of various places along the Highway as well as various places along Ridgecrest Drive;


**WHEREAS,** These needed and improvements to the Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway are critical in nature and should not be delayed for any length of time.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** by the City Council of the City of Bethel, that the Commissioner of the Alaska State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities is hereby encouraged and persuaded to insure that this critical project is initiated at the beginning of the 2006 construction season and completed by the end of the 2006 construction season.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the City Council of the City of Bethel supports reconstruction and repair of this highway as a priority item because of the existing condition of the roadway and waiting for one or more years would only cause additional, preventable, and unnecessary costs for repairs to the street and to the vehicles that travel on this street.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 21st DAY OF NOVEMBER 2005, BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE IN FAVOR.**

  
R. Thor Williams, Mayor

ATTEST   
Sandra Modigh, City Clerk  
City of Bethel, Alaska